



6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Khotso House, 62 Marshall Street, Johannesburg, 2001

P.O Box 62098, Marshalltown, 2107

Tel: 011 833 1190, Fax: 011 833 1076

Email: info@esset.org.za

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## **Media Statement**

### **Grave concern about looming strings of informal traders evictions**

The Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET), an independent ecumenical organisation that works for social and economic justice condemns in the strongest term possible the scores of imminent informal traders' evictions across the country.

ESSET is very disappointed at the recent issuing of notice to evict informal traders across the country in areas such as Cape Town (Mitchell's Plain and Cape Town station) and Johannesburg (Soccer City stadium and Park station). ESSET further support and applaud the valiant informal traders from Mitchell's Plain and Cape Town station who yesterday embarked on a march to Parliament in order to register their discontentment and in an effort to evade possible eviction of the 500 Concerned Hawkers and Traders Association members.

ESSET is convinced that the swift move to wipe out the informal traders from the streets just few months before the World cup reflect inclinations by municipalities across the country who are in an exertion to perpetuate the current economic trajectory that unjustly and falsely divides the country's economy into first and second economy. It's also depict a tendency of frowning at the marginalized communities such as informal traders who have been excluded from benefiting in the economic opportunities while the big business is extended a hand of munificence. Furthermore, we have dismayingly, noted the decision to force retail liquor outlets to spit out R50 000 if the soccer matches are broadcasted on their licensed premises.

ESSET hold the view that the World Cup is not for everyone. The only time when every citizen seems to be included in the World cup is when mentioning that there is pride and unity prevailing amongst the locals as inhabitants of the host country. It is apparent that the social project such as the 2010 FIFA World Cup has not been planned effectively to play a significant role towards social cohesion and development in our society. Rather, it seems to have been hijacked to become a capitalist project that alienates and excludes many while creating wealth for the few.

Though the informal trading sector has been part of the mobilised public that contributed towards preparing for the success of the World Cup, it is disturbing to learn that only formal businesses that are affected by the commercial restriction rules of FIFA would be compensated while the informal traders stand to get nothing. In months building to the World cup, the metro police have given informal traders a horrid in their endeavour to swipe them off the streets. Often when enquiring on the processes they should follow if they want to peddle their goods during the world cup, they were sent from one pillar to the next and instead eventually given eviction notices. ESSET therefore calls-on municipalities and metropolitan cities to make provisions in their 'by-laws' to allow impoverished sectors such as informal traders to benefit and score big in the World cup.

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Tel: 011 833 1190

Fax: 011 833 1076